

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF IOWA,

ASKING

*An appropriation of land on Rock Island, in the Mississippi, for the construction and support of a Marine Hospital on that island.*

JANUARY 15, 1849.

Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, represent that they regard the legislation of Congress as indicating an intention to establish marine hospitals for sick seamen and watermen at such points on the sea and lake coasts, and along the principal rivers as the wants of our commerce shall require. Several of them have already been put in operation ; others are in progress of preparation, and locations have been made and sites purchased for others at considerable expense to the nation, but no provision has yet been made for the upper valley of the Mississippi. The basin drained by that river and its tributaries, above the Missouri, is of immense extent and great fertility and salubrity, and is already occupied by one entire State and parts of two others, whilst still additional States are contemplated ; and so rapid is the increase of population and commerce that the want of such an institution is already felt, and is becoming more pressing every year.

Your memorialists represent that Rock Island, in the Mississippi river, is believed to be the most eligible location for such institution. It is a central point in the upper valley, being about midway between St. Louis, the highest point on the river at which a hospital has been located, and the head of navigation in that river, and will accommodate the commerce of the main stream and all its navigable tributaries. It lies at the foot of the upper rapids, and is the resort of boats and boatmen for the purpose of lying by during the winter season. It is also, on account of its salubrity and scenery, the resort of invalids and others during the summer months. It is the terminus of the railroad which is to connect the lakes with the Mississippi, and the point from which the great western road will probably be continued. These causes will render it in future more than it is at present, the focus and radiating point of the commerce of the north west.

Your memorialists further represent that the island, which now belongs to the United States, contains several hundred acres of exceedingly valua-

ble land, from the sale of which it is confidently believed a sufficient sum can be realized to erect the necessary buildings, and put the institution in complete readiness for the reception of patients without any appropriation of money from the treasury.

Your memorialists therefore pray the passage of an act directing the Secretary of War to select a suitable tract of land upon the island for the site of the necessary buildings and for appurtenant grounds, and appropriating the proceeds of the remaining lands to the establishment and support of such hospital.

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Iowa,* That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be requested, to use their influence in obtaining the grant contemplated in the above memorial for the purposes therein set forth.

*Resolved,* That the secretary of state be requested to forward forthwith to our senators and representatives in Congress, and to the governor of the State of Illinois a copy of this memorial and these resolutions.

SMILEY H. BONHAM,

*Speaker of the House.*

JOHN J. SELMAN,

*President of the Senate.*

Approved December 27, 1848.

ANSEL BRIGGS.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE IOWA,

*Iowa city, December 27, 1848:*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original now on file in said office.

JOSIAH H. BONNEY,

*Secretary of State.*